



State and Local Implementation Grant Program 2.0 - Closeout Report



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State and Local Implementation Grant Program

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Program Summary & Key Accomplishments

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act) directed the Department of Commerce’s (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to establish, in consultation with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), “a grant program to make grants to states to assist State, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective way or such jurisdictions to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide public safety broadband network [NPSBN] to satisfy the wireless communications and data services needs of that jurisdiction, including with regards to coverage, siting, and other needs.”¹ As required by the Act, NTIA consulted with the FirstNet Authority to establish the programmatic requirements for the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) (hereinafter referred to as SLIGP 1.0) that awarded \$116.5 million in grant funds to 54 state and territorial recipients between July 2013 and June 2014.

NTIA projected up to 40 percent of SLIGP 1.0 awarded funds would remain unspent by February 28, 2018, resulting in the voluntary deobligation and capture of unspent funds during SLIGP 1.0 closeout to develop a follow-on grant program, the State and Local Implementation Grant Program 2.0 (SLIGP 2.0).

In 2018, NTIA awarded \$33.3 million in grants to 46 U.S. States and territories. SLIGP 2.0 provided a continuous stream of funding to support states and territories to further plan for the NPSBN, developed by the FirstNet Authority, and public safety user adoption in the post-State Plan period as the Radio Access Network (RAN) was being deployed. As defined in the NOFO, SLIGP 2.0 allowable activities and costs were based on the state’s opt-in or opt-out status. All 56 States and territories opted-in to FirstNet.

In alignment with SLIGP 1.0 as authorized by Section 6302 of the Act, NTIA created SLIGP 2.0 as a formula-based, matching grant program designed to provide resources for states and territories to work with local stakeholders to continue planning for the NPSBN. NTIA established allowable activities and monitored recipient implementation throughout the program performance period.

Recipients reported three major themes as key lessons learned through the implementation of SLIGP 2.0: the value of stakeholder engagement; the benefit of identifying coverage gaps; and the importance of having dedicated staff funded by SLIGP 2.0 to drive NPSBN planning in their state or territory.

In their closeout reports, recipients ranked qualitative statements about the value of the program from strongly agree to strongly disagree regarding the impact and usefulness of SLIGP 2.0 funds in planning for the NPSBN. Approximately 89 percent of recipients reported they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “Overall, SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in preparing for FirstNet.”

Recipients also indicated that SLIGP 2.0 funds were least useful to “maintain a governance structure for broadband in my state/territory,” with approximately only 58 percent agreeing or

¹ Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Title VI, Subtitle C, §§ 6301-02, Pub. L. 112-96, 126 Stat. 156, 218-21 (2012).

strongly agreeing with the statement. A majority of those recipients cited difficulty establishing a governance structure, that existing structures covered broadband initiatives through other funding sources, or their governance structure was disbanded following the closure of SLIGP 1.0.

Several grant recipients reported that SLIGP 2.0 allowable activities were too restrictive, leading to challenges to conduct activities within scope, spend grant funds, and engage stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic was also cited as an exacerbating pain point for program recipients, limiting their activities during the last year of the period of performance.

Program Overview

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, (hereafter referred to as the Act) directed the Department of Commerce’s (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to establish, in consultation with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), “a grant program to make grants to states to assist State, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective way or such jurisdictions to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide public safety broadband network to satisfy the wireless communications and data services needs of that jurisdiction, including with regards to coverage, siting, and other needs.”²

The NTIA Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) created and oversaw the State and Local Implementation Grant Program 2.0 (SLIGP 2.0) on behalf of the NTIA Assistant Secretary to meet NTIA’s responsibilities under the Act. Following the voluntary deobligation of projected unspent funds and the capture of additional unspent funds during closeout from SLIGP 1.0, NTIA created SLIGP 2.0 as a formula-based, matching grant program designed to continue to provide resources to states and territories working with stakeholders to plan for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). To accomplish these objectives, NTIA established specific allowable activities and tracked recipient achievements throughout the performance period. OPSC worked with the FirstNet Authority to consult on two allowable activities, the Convened Stakeholder Events and Data Collection activities. The FirstNet Authority provided a templated process for recipients to request engagement in these activities.

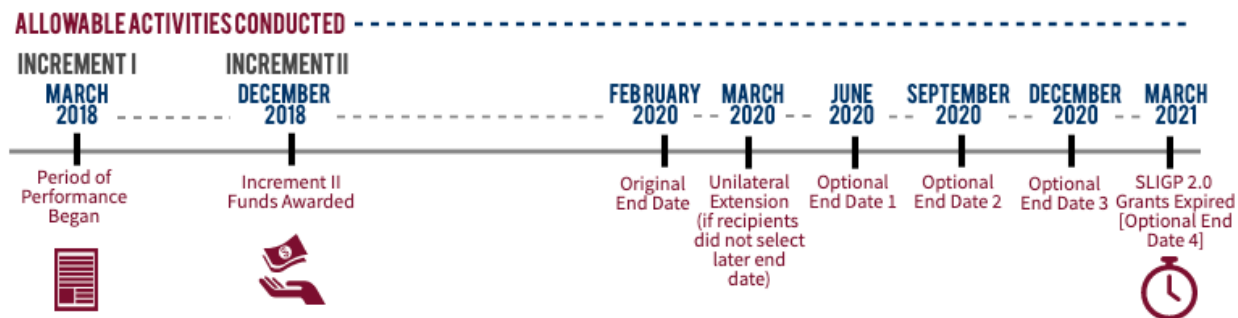
On September 27, 2017, NTIA released the SLIGP 2.0 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) as a grant opportunity for all 56 states and territories. NTIA partnered with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to provide Grants Officer services and contracted with a consulting company during the award period and then Corner Alliance, Inc. to provide comprehensive grant programmatic support services throughout the duration of the program.

Applications and Awards

NTIA released the SLIGP 2.0 NOFO with an application deadline of December 28, 2017. Prior to applying for SLIGP 2.0 funds, states and territories could either formally opt-in to opt-out of the FirstNet Authority’s State Plan (or let the 90-day opt-out window elapse, thus opting-in to FirstNet). Following an extensive evaluation process, including an Initial Eligibility Review, Merit Review, and Programmatic Review in accordance with the NOFO, NTIA recommended applications for award from January 2018 through March 2018. Nine states and territories did not apply, including Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, and South Carolina. Additionally, the State of Wisconsin decided to withdraw its SLIGP 2.0 application during the application review process.

² Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Title VI, Subtitle C, §§ 6301-02, Pub. L. 112-96, 126 Stat. 156, 218-21 (2012).

Figure 1: SLIGP 2.0 Timeline



To establish SLIGP 2.0, NTIA leveraged excess funds from projected unspent balances of SLIGP 1.0 grants that recipients voluntarily deobligated in 2017. These funds were awarded to SLIGP 2.0 recipients in Increment I. NTIA recovered additional unspent funds during the closeout of SLIGP 1.0 in mid-2018 and awarded Increment II in December 2018. The first increment awarded \$12,629,323 to 46 recipients for the initial nine months of the SLIGP 2.0 grant award (March 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018). The second increment awarded \$20,680,038 to 45 recipients for the subsequent 28-month period of December 1, 2018, to the original end date of February 29, 2020.³

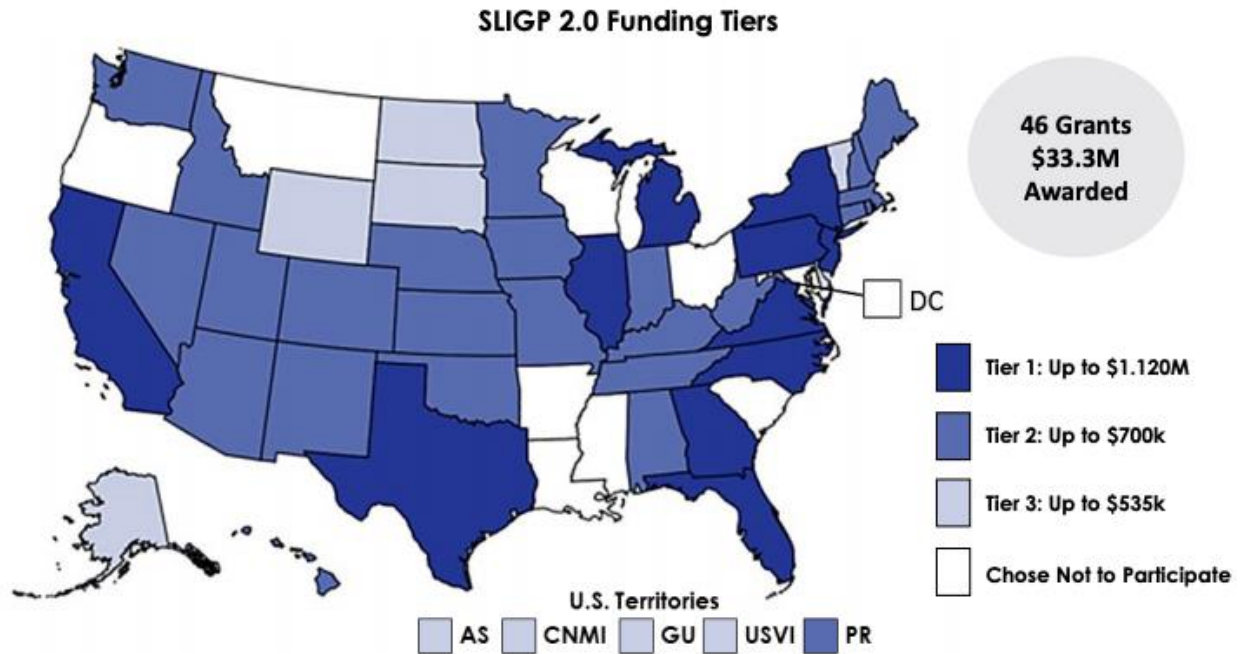
NTIA extended all SLIGP 2.0 grants to the end of a fiscal quarter, which provided NTIA the opportunity to remove a quarterly Program Performance Reports (PPR) and reduce the administrative burden for recipients and the SLIGP 2.0 Program Office. Prior to July 31, 2019, recipients submitted a letter to NTIA requesting a no-cost extension amending their period of performance in alignment with the end of a quarter (June 30, 2020, September 30, 2020, December 31, 2020, or March 31, 2021). Recipients acknowledged that no additional funds would be made available and affirmed that their organization would meet the match requirement. Automatic, unilateral extensions to March 31, 2020, were given to recipients that chose not to submit a letter.

NTIA awarded a total of \$33,309,360.74 to 46 U.S. States and territories, in amounts ranging from \$164,232.00 to \$1,120,000.00, mapped in Figure 2. All recipients, except for the territories of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the United States Virgin Islands, were required to provide matching funds (cash or in-kind) for 20 percent of the total award. Additionally, Puerto Rico submitted, and NTIA approved, a cost match waiver request showing good cause to warrant a full waiver of the required cost match.⁴

³ Georgia voluntarily declined a second increment of funding.

⁴ NTIA waived this requirement for Puerto Rico in accordance with NTIA’s cost match waiver authority, described in section 6302(b)(2) of the Act and Section G.6 of the SLIGP 2.0 NOFO.

Figure 2: SLIGP 2.0 Recipients



Program Financial Overview

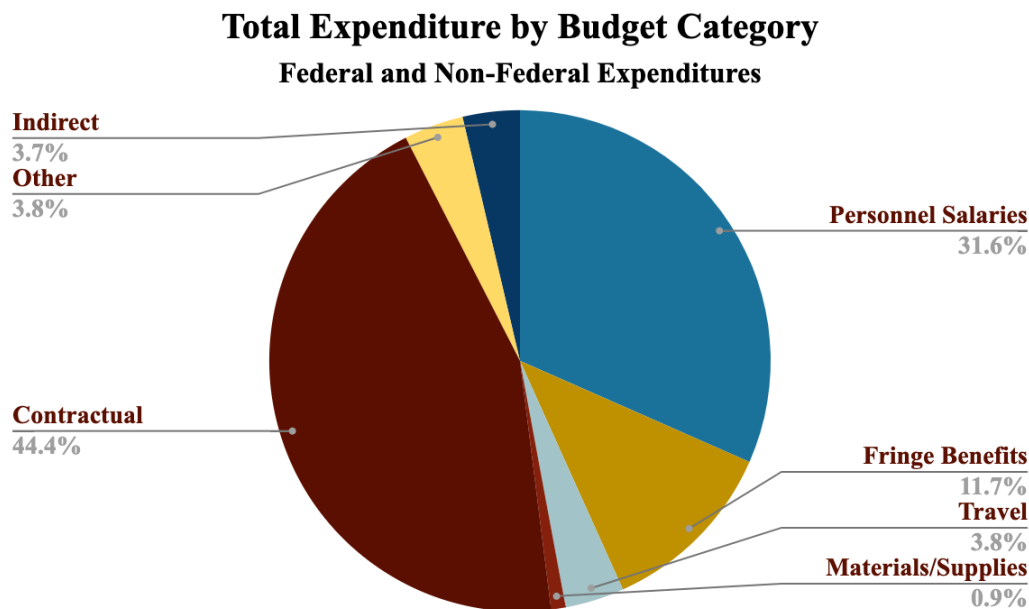
In 2018, NTIA awarded \$33.3 million in Federal funds and approved \$7.7 million of Non-Federal funds for SLIGP 2.0. At the closeout period's conclusion, SLIGP 2.0 recipients reported expenditures of \$17.5 million in Federal funds and \$4.9M in matching funds (totaling \$22.4 million).⁵

SLIGP 2.0 recipients expended their budgets across eight categories: Personnel Salaries, Personnel Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Materials/Supplies, Contractual, Other, and Indirect Costs.

Recipients spent nearly half of their budgets (44 percent), in aggregate, on Contractual costs. Personnel salaries (32 percent) and Fringe (12 percent) represented the next highest categories. Travel, Other, and Indirect represented the middle categories all representing approximately four percent respectively. Materials/Supplies totaled less than one percent of expended funds; zero expenses were filed in the Equipment category (Figure 3).

⁵ As of November 2021, NTIA recommended all grants for programmatic closure. As the NIST Grants Management Division completes the official closing of the grants and cost verifications, there may be minor adjustments to total amounts.

Figure 3: Total Expenditure by Budget Category (Federal and Non-Federal)



Program Activities

All SLIGP 2.0-funded activities supported planning, consultation, and data collection efforts related to the NPSBN. SLIGP 2.0 did not require mandatory grant activities except for the designation of a single officer or governing body to serve as the Single Point of Contract (SPOC). Allowable activities for recipients included:

1. Single officer (or governmental body) and staff to, at a minimum, provide for ongoing coordination with NTIA and implementation of grant funds.
2. Existing governance body to provide input to the single officer and to contribute towards planning activities to further identify potential public safety users of the NPSBN and prepare for data sharing.
3. Data collection in specific areas identified to be helpful as requested by FirstNet Authority.
4. Development of policies and agreements to increase sharing of data between existing public safety systems across various agencies within the state or territory using the NPSBN.

Figure 4: Select SLIGP 2.0 Allowable Activities



5. Individuals, such as the single officer and governing body members, to perform planning activities to help FirstNet and its partner further identify potential public safety users of the NPSBN.
6. Planning efforts to help FirstNet gain inclusion on applicable statewide contract vehicles.
7. Planning activities to prepare for emergency communications technology transitions.
8. Activities to identify and plan for the transition of public safety applications, software, and databases.
9. Identifying and documenting on-going coverage needs/gaps within the state.
10. Activities to convene stakeholder outreach events to continue planning for NPSBN implementation, as requested by FirstNet.

As part of its programmatic monitoring efforts, NTIA required award recipients to submit quarterly PPRs. (NTIA also required recipients to submit quarterly Federal Financial Reports.) The PPR collected both quantitative data metrics data aligned to allowable activities and qualitative narrative highlights of completed activities with information on staffing, contracts, and cumulative funds expended across the budget categories. Additionally, at the end of the period of performance, SLIGP 2.0 recipients were required to submit a Closeout Report with cumulative metrics consistent with the PPR categories and qualitative questions to assess recipient feedback on activities and use of SLIGP 2.0 funds throughout their performance period.

Beginning in March 2020, recipient engagement in SLIGP 2.0 activities significantly decreased due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel and in-person meeting restrictions canceled or converted conferences to free virtual events, resulting in a decrease or elimination of recipient spending to convene or attend these events. Additionally, recipients reported overall project implementation delays, requiring pivots, or abandoning activities entirely.

Cumulative Metrics

NTIA designed and collected quantitative program metrics data to demonstrate recipient successes and achievements in planning for NPSBN deployment and public safety user adoption. SLIGP 2.0 recipients reported metrics in the following categories: Governance Meetings, Individuals Sent to Broadband Conferences, Convened Stakeholder Events, Staff Hired, Contracts Executed, and Subrecipient Agreement Executed. Table 1 provides cumulative totals for all metrics.

Table 1: Cumulative Program Metrics

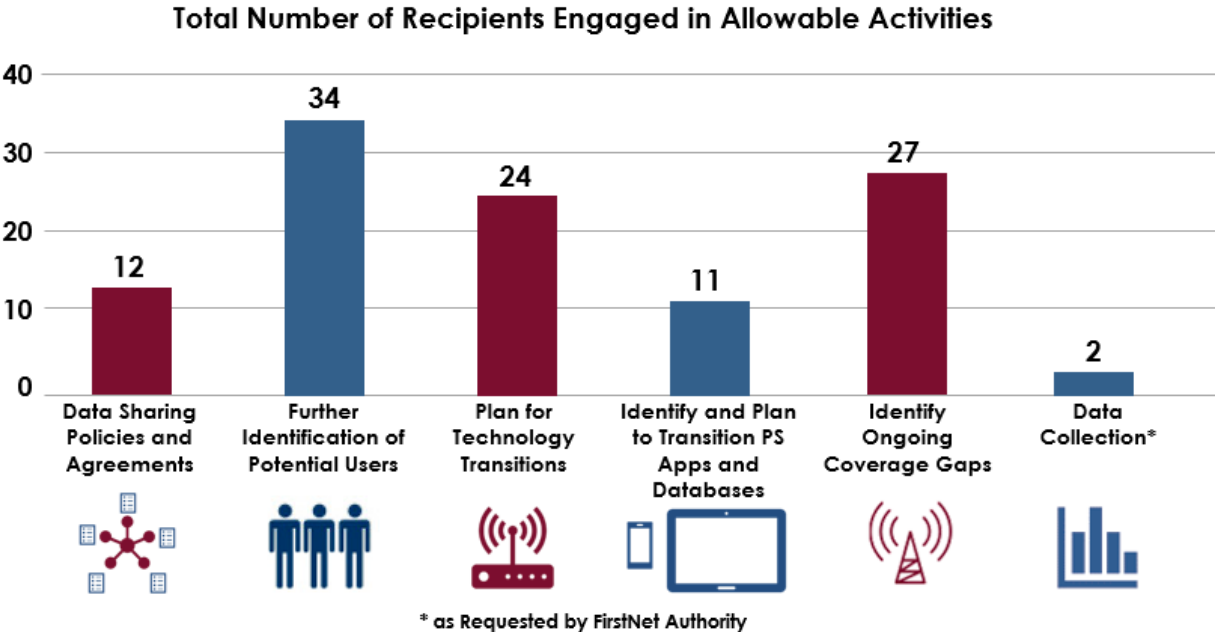
Program Metric	Cumulative Count
Governance Meetings	1,859
Individuals Sent to Broadband Conferences	506
Convened Stakeholder Events, as requested by the FirstNet Authority	195
Staff Hired (Full-Time Equivalent)	71.65
Contracts Executed	55

Subrecipient Agreements Executed	4
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In addition to the aforementioned metrics, NTIA tracked overall progress and the number of recipients engaged in allowable programmatic activities (Figure 5) across six allowable activity areas listed below:

1. Data Sharing Policies/Agreements Developed
2. Further Identification of Potential Public Safety Users
3. Plans for Emergency Communications Technology Transitions
4. Identified and Planned to Transition Public Safety Applications & Databases
5. Identify Ongoing Coverage Gaps
6. Data Collection Activities, as requested by the FirstNet Authority

Figure 5: Total Number of Recipients Engaged in Allowable Activities



Governance Meetings

As a continuation from SLIGP 1.0, recipients utilized their existing governance structures to plan activities, identify potential public safety users of the NPSBN, and prepare for data sharing. Governance meetings provided an opportunity for staff to update stakeholders on the NPSBN planning process, discuss state or territory coverage buildout, and develop policies for public safety broadband in their jurisdictions. SLIGP 2.0 recipients conducted a total of 1,859 governance meetings.

Idaho held 65 governance meetings with representatives from counties, cities, and statewide public safety agencies and organizations including Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, Idaho Emergency Medical Services

Communications Center, Idaho Technology Authority, a member of the Idaho Legislature, a member from one of the five federally recognized tribes in the state, and members of the six District Interoperability Governance Boards. The meetings included discussion on the statewide buildout of the NPSBN and were also attended by representatives from FirstNet AT&T and the FirstNet Authority.

Arizona developed a Public Safety Communications Assessment, identifying best practices from across the country to establish and operate an effective public safety communications governance structure for those using the NPSBN. The Assessment compiled the ideal models of efficient and effective staffing and operations to facilitate interoperable communications among statewide public safety stakeholder agencies using the NPSBN.

Individuals Sent to Broadband Conferences

Individuals attended broadband conferences to learn about the development and implementation of the NPSBN and the broadband and communication needs of public safety professionals. SLIGP 2.0 recipients sent 506 individuals to attend broadband conferences including events sponsored by the FirstNet Authority, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference, the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE), the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Division Annual Conference, and regional conferences.

Convened Stakeholder Events

Convened stakeholder events, at the request of the FirstNet Authority, included presentations, in-person and virtual meetings, and regional workshops and conferences. FirstNet AT&T and the FirstNet Authority typically attended and/or presented at these events on FirstNet's capabilities, the buildout, and public safety needs. SLIGP 2.0 recipients convened 195 stakeholder events.

Texas convened 23 stakeholder events and in-person workshops associated with interoperability and NPSBN planning, including the annual Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition event and workshop on public safety messaging applications, which was attended by the FirstNet Authority. The recipient also held annual meetings with its regional councils of governments and radio system owners to discuss the progress of the NPSBN in Texas.

CNMI convened three stakeholder events in the municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The events focused on planning for the NPSBN and provided an opportunity for local law enforcement agencies to ask public safety communications questions to subject matter experts and discuss coverage gaps. Attendees included the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Staffing

Staff supported state and territory efforts to plan for the NPSBN, including grant managers, broadband coordinators, tribal liaisons, emergency communications personnel, budget and financial analysts, and operations personnel. Recipients hired a total of 71.65 full time equivalents (FTEs). The FTEs only include new individuals directly hired by the recipients. Numerous additional individuals supported SLIGP 2.0 activities through contracts and subrecipient agreements.

Contracts and Subrecipient Agreements

Seventy-two percent of recipients worked with contractors, consultants, and executed subrecipient agreements for subject matter expertise, outreach, and allowable activity implementation. SLIGP 2.0 recipients executed 55 contracts and four subrecipient agreements.

Data Sharing Policies/Agreements Developed

Activities supporting the development of data sharing policies and/or agreements ranged from meetings with stakeholders to discuss barriers and challenges with data handling, identifying available data and data gaps that should be shared across state entities, and arranging and developing agreements or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to share data. Twelve recipients conducted activities to develop data sharing policies and/or agreements.

North Carolina held in-person and virtual data sharing workshops with public safety personnel to better understand the challenges in data sharing and ways to increase data sharing across the state using the NPSBN. The five workshops were divided by discipline including 911, fire, and law enforcement. North Carolina developed a tool following the workshops to facilitate conversations between agencies on sharing data, track possible data sharing solutions, current policies, relationships fostered, and barriers to sharing important, life-saving data.

Massachusetts created a statewide contract to support public safety municipal, county, and state agencies with the purchase of Public Safety Grade Wireless Data Services. Massachusetts worked with the FirstNet Authority and FirstNet AT&T to develop data sharing policies and agreements on security and access standards to connect NPSBN users with criminal history data stores at the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services. This helped Massachusetts law enforcement resolve a major obstacle by using the FirstNet Authority services.

Utah administered the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's Information Sharing Assessment Tool (ISAT), which is a survey tool that helps agencies determine their information data sharing capabilities and any data sharing gaps. Utah narrowed their survey to sharing data practices on the NPSBN. Of the 61 state agencies that submitted responses to the survey, most indicated that intra-agency data sharing was sufficient but indicated that data sharing external to the agency needed to be addressed. The results of the survey were used in a data sharing workshop to discuss how their agencies could develop planning documents that would bridge the gap in sharing mission critical data during an incident that required multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and or multi-discipline response. From this, Utah developed the Public Safety Data Sharing Recommendations and Best Practices document, which is available on the FirstNet in Utah website.

Further Identification of Potential Public Safety Users

Recipients identified public safety users through participation at governance meetings, broadband conferences, workshops, and stakeholder meetings. Outreach was conducted on a local, regional, state, and Federal level across all public safety and support disciplines. Thirty-four recipients conducted activities to identify potential NPSBN users from public safety communities.

Puerto Rico identified potential public safety users and conducted more than 250 meetings and outreach activities with all 78 municipalities with representatives from Municipal Emergency Management, search and rescue teams, radio operators, and emergency managers. Puerto Rico also met with the private sector and Federal and local agencies including the Department of Correction, Puerto Rico Police Bureau, Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau, Department of Transportation and Public Works, University of Puerto Rico, and San Lucas hospital (Ponce). The recipient presented on the capabilities and benefits of the NPSBN and fielded information requests about the NPSBN, eligibility, Push-to-Talk services, network priority, Band 14 and coverage in urban and rural areas, and technology transition from LMR and long-term evolution (LTE). Puerto Rico also conducted one-on-one meetings with municipal and state police personnel and firefighters. Puerto Rico found these meetings imperative to identify potential NPSBN users.

Plans for Emergency Communications Technology Transitions

The development of plans for emergency communications technology transition enabled public safety entities to more fully understand the considerations and requirements needed to transfer from currently used mission-critical emergency communications technology (e.g., Push-to-Talk communications) and integrate and use the NPSBN for mission critical emergency communications. Twenty-four recipients planned for emergency communications technology transition. In addition, long term planning activities were conducted to support the eventual transition to primary use of the NPSBN for mission-critical emergency communications.

California participated in quarterly California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC) meetings and prepared guidelines and checklists for emergency communications technology transitions and applications.

Oklahoma worked with multiple local, state, and tribal entities to plans for emergency communications technology transitions. Oklahoma provided guidance to public safety entities considering the adoption of the NPSBN and offered planning tools and timelines prior to consultation with FirstNet AT&T. These efforts were successful for Oklahoma in alleviating public safety entity concerns around transitioning to the NPSBN.

Identified and Planned to Transition Public Safety Applications & Databases

Recipients identified currently-used applications, developed and distributed surveys on application needs, and conducted outreach to better understand desired future application and database capabilities. Eleven recipients conducted activities to identify and plan the transition of public safety applications and databases.

South Dakota executed a contract to support the development and distribution of an applications survey. There were 663 responses to their survey. The survey documented the currently used and desired future use of applications and capabilities across all public safety disciplines and jurisdictions in the state that could be used on the NPSBN. The survey identified the critical items that public safety users need to access and share over mobile broadband networks, as well as barriers for broadband adoption and data sharing requirements. The survey results informed the South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council and the Broadband Sub-Committee on the need for specific capabilities, including likely data interoperability requirements and potential areas of cooperation that could be pursued to increase access to critical applications and services.

Identify Ongoing Coverage Gaps

Recipients crowdsourced coverage data in which stakeholders passively collected data on coverage through an application while conducting their normal day-to-day activities, purchased wireless data analytics from independent private sector firms for spectrum bands that are part of the NPSBN, and completed drive testing. Twenty-seven recipients conducted activities to identify ongoing coverage gaps. To conduct drive testing, recipients submitted required justification from either crowdsourced information, purchased analytics, or documented stakeholder reports from FirstNet users. The recipient then compared these findings or reports to the completed initial operational capability (IOC) stage in their FirstNet State Plan portal. If the justification data did not align to the coverage promised in the completed IOC, recipients could drive test for coverage in the specific areas identified and analyze the results. Additional activities included stakeholder outreach to better understand coverage needs and meetings with the FirstNet Authority and FirstNet AT&T to discuss the buildout of coverage within the state.

Hawaii crowdsourced coverage data on the NPSBN to address reported first responder concerns on FirstNet AT&T's coverage when migrating to the NPSBN. The recipient compared their crowdsourced findings to the mobile coverage data provided by the FirstNet AT&T and identified locations with coverage gaps, weak or intermittent signals, poor data throughput and low signal to noise ratio. The data helped inform the best tower locations for future NPSBN buildouts and was provided to Hawaii's public safety stakeholders.

Data Collection Activities

Two recipients collected data on behalf of the FirstNet Authority. The FirstNet Authority requested that California conduct data collection, specifically gathering input from counties and operational areas regarding their respective top five coverage needs to be incorporated in California's annual input to AT&T on potential tower locations. California collected this information and provided it to the FirstNet Authority for consideration.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

As part of the SLIGP 2.0 closeout process, NTIA asked recipients to highlight lessons learned from implementing the grant program. Recipients identified three major themes as key lessons learned: the value of stakeholder engagement; the benefit of identifying coverage gaps; and the importance of having dedicated staff funded by SLIGP 2.0 to drive NPSBN planning in their state or territory.

Recipients prioritized the activities of stakeholder engagement throughout the grant program to conduct additional allowable activities, including planning for data sharing policies, identifying coverage gaps, and planning for the emergency communications technology transitions and applications and databases. Many recipients expressed that engagement efforts built trust among local entities with regards to FirstNet and helped drive adoption in many jurisdictions, particularly when recipients were able to meet with agencies or first responders one-on-one. Recipients reported that often stakeholders were pleased to receive updates on the NPSBN buildout and coverage, and voice capability concerns and needed capabilities for FirstNet AT&T and FirstNet Authority's consideration.

Another lesson learned theme included the benefit of collecting coverage gap data. Shared coverage data informed stakeholders, FirstNet AT&T, and the FirstNet Authority on areas lacking coverage. Understanding coverage availability allowed stakeholders to make informed decisions on whether to transition to the NPSBN. Recipients reported that the opinion of their stakeholders will inform the success of the FirstNet service.

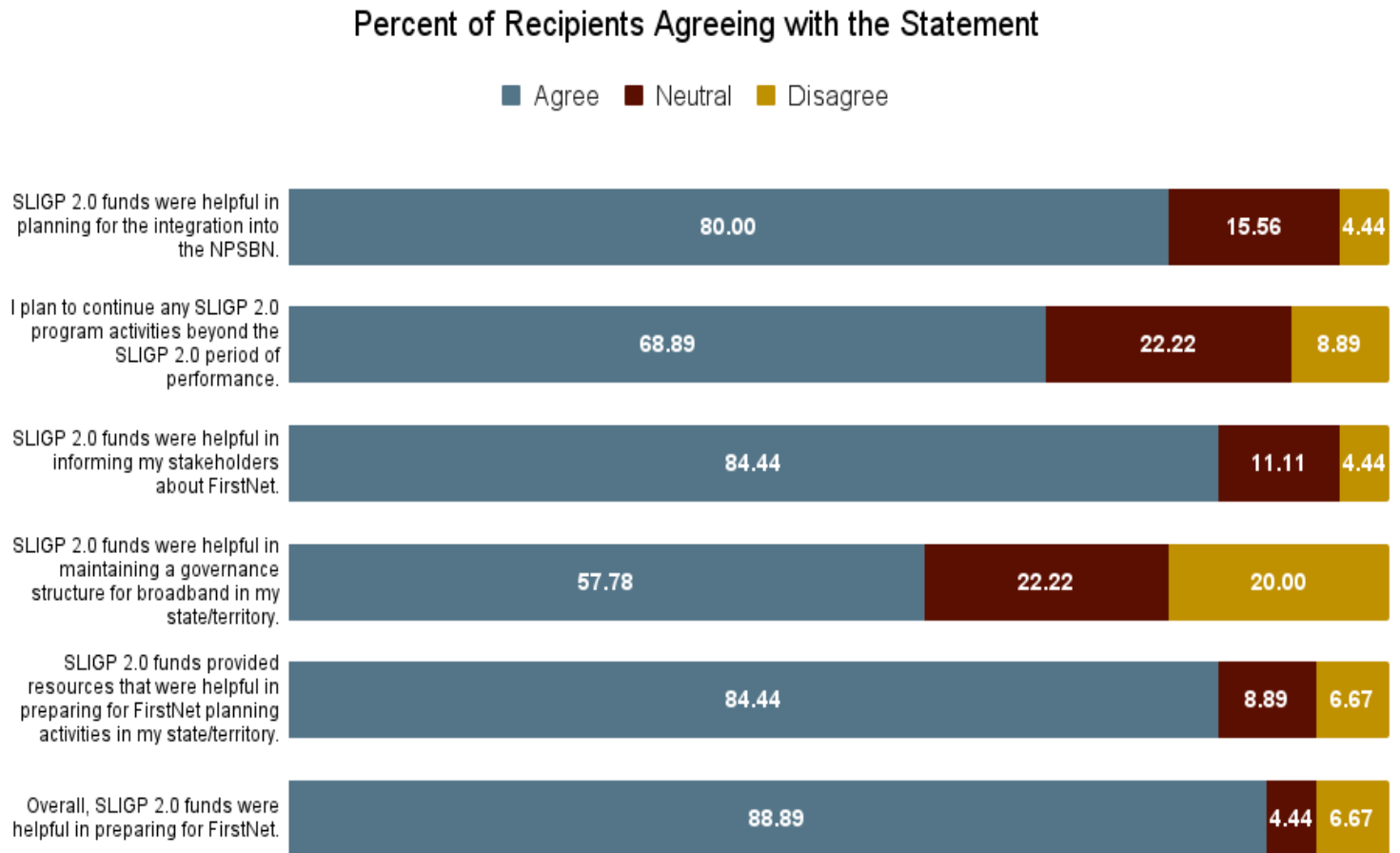
Recipients also discussed the importance of having a funded, dedicated staff tasked with driving efforts to plan for the NPSBN within the state or territory. Since the NPSBN impacts a multitude of entities within the state or territory, the ability to centralize efforts under one program allowed recipients to develop coordinated efforts within the state. Recipients reported that contractual support allowed for an increase of stakeholder engagement and implementation of allowable activities. Additionally, more than half of the recipients reported plans to continue governance and engagement events post-SLIGP 2.0.

SLIGP 2.0 Program Impacts

In addition to the narrative answers, NTIA requested recipients provide their level of agreement with the following statements on their Closeout Report. These statements were designed to provide NTIA with information on the value of the program to recipients and inform future program design. The following statements included:

- A. SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in planning for the integration into the NPSBN.
- B. I plan to continue any SLIGP 2.0 program activities beyond the SLIGP 2.0 period of performance.
- C. SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in informing my stakeholders about FirstNet.
- D. SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in maintaining a governance structure for broadband in my state/territory.
- E. SLIGP 2.0 funds provided resources that were helpful in preparing for FirstNet planning activities in my state/territory (e.g., staffing, attending broadband conferences, participating in training, procuring contract support).
- F. Overall, SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in preparing for FirstNet.

Figure 6: Percent of Recipients Agreeing with the Statement



At a high level, recipients found SLIGP 2.0 funds overall useful in preparing for FirstNet, with 40 (89 percent) of the SLIGP 2.0 recipients strongly agreeing or agreeing with Statement F: *Overall, SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in preparing for FirstNet.* Likewise, 36 (or 80 percent) of the 45 respondents indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the Statement A: *SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in planning for the integration into the NPSBN.* In narrative explanations for their responses, a recipient indicated:

“SLIGP 2.0 funds were helpful in providing education, identifying potential users, building relationships with the FirstNet Authority and FirstNet AT&T and elevating the NPBSN as a statewide priority.”

Recipients indicated that SLIGP 2.0 funds were least useful for maintaining governance structures for broadband in the state with only 26 (58 percent) agreeing or strongly agreeing to Statement D: *SLIGP 2.0 funds provided resources that were helpful in preparing for FirstNet planning activities in my state/territory.* Most recipients cited difficulty to organize governance structures or that existing structures covering broadband initiatives were funded by other sources as their reason for disagreeing with this question. Some recipients disbanded their governance structure following the closure of SLIGP 1.0. Likewise, recipients cited that state staff may not have the personnel funding to continue SLIGP 2.0 program activities beyond the grant (Statement B).

“SLIGP 2.0 funds allowed our state to continue a partnership with the FirstNet Authority as well as work with our public safety stakeholders as they entered the planning phases of adopting the NPSBN. Conducting coverage gap analysis allowed our public safety stakeholders to see firsthand that the work performed during the SLIGP 1.0 program came to fruition . . . The state and our public safety stakeholders greatly appreciated the SLIGP 2.0 program.”

Additionally, 31 (70 percent) recipients agreed or strongly agreed that they plan to continue SLIGP 2.0 program activities past their SLIGP 2.0 period of performance (Statement B). For all other questions, recipients reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements about the usefulness of SLIGP 2.0 funds at rates over 68 percent. Overall, given the lessons learned and qualitative questions, SLIGP 2.0 funds were proven useful to states and territories in preparing for FirstNet.

“It is highly likely no NPSBN planning related activities would have been conducted without SLIGP 2.0 funding support. This includes staffing, attending broadband conferences, participating in training, procuring contractual support, and establishment of the broadband workgroup.”

Summary

NTIA provided grant funding from 2018 to early 2021 to 46 states and territories. SLIGP 2.0 recipients across all levels of government and public safety disciplines found that the funding helped their work with stakeholders to further plan for the NPSBN and public safety user adoption in the post-State Plan period as the RAN was being deployed.